High speed southern rail corridor

2584. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Karnataka has requested that a high speed southern rail corridor between Chennai-Mumbai *via* Bengalooru and Hubli with an additional link between Bengalooru and Mysore, be planned; and

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by her Ministry on the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Among the six corridors that have been identified by the Ministry of Railways for carrying out the pre-feasibility studies for High Speed corridor, one corridor *viz*. Chennai-Bangalore-Coimbatore-Ernakulam passes through the State of Karnataka. For the identified corridors, the policy of the Ministry of Railways is that the cost of pre-feasibility studies shall be shared equally between the Ministry of Railways and the concerned State Governments. For all other corridors, the Ministry of Railway's policy is that the concerned State Governments shall bear 80% of the cost of the pre-feasibility studies and the balance cost by Ministry of Railways. Ministry of Railways are therefore willing to bear 20% cost of the pre-feasibility study for the Bangalore-Hubli-Mumbai corridor and the same has been communicated to the Government of Karnataka. Since State Government of Karntaka has not responded, no further action could be taken.

Railway Pension Fund

2585. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway Pension Fund constituted in 1964 for meeting the expenditure on pensionary benefits to retiring employees was to be financed on the basis of actual calculation;

(b) if so, whether Railways' contribution to the fund continued to be with reference to the trend of actual withdrawals every year; and

(c) whether an acturial assessment done in 2005 reckoned the accrued liability of pension to Rs 5,41,947 crores and how Railways plans provisioning of such magnitude?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. An actuarial assessment done in 2005-06 placed the accrued liability of pension on Railways at Rs 5,41,947 crore. Since Railways, as a part of Government of India follows Government accounting principles, actuarial assessment, which is based on accrual accounting,